

Appln. No. 09/511,955
Amdt dated July 16, 2003
Reply to Office action of April 25, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9-14 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been amended. Claims 9-14 have been added. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 have been canceled. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9-14 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,233,232 (Chau). Claims 1 and 5, as amended, recite that the dynamic bonding of an identified protocol to a port "allow[s] the port to transmit packets according to a first protocol in a first communication session and according to a second protocol in a second communication session." Chau fails to teach or suggest this limitation. In fact, Chau specifically discloses that "logical ports and physical ports are allocated during system initialization." (Col. 9, lines 60-62). Thus, the allocation of logical ports to physical ports in Chau is static. Chau fails to teach or suggest dynamically bonding an identified protocol to a port.

Chau also fails to teach or suggest any dynamic bonding that "allow[s] the port to transmit packets according to a first protocol in a first communication session and according to a second protocol in a second communication session." The system in Chau supports a single layer two communication protocol, namely, the PPP protocol. (See, Figure 4). Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 are now in condition for allowance.

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Claims 2 and 6 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

Claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 have been canceled. The rejection of these claims are therefore now moot.

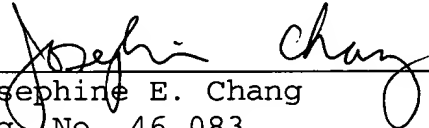
Claims 9-14 are new in this application. Claims 11-13 are in condition for allowance because Chau fails to teach or suggest "dynamically configuring a port with the identified communication protocol for a duration of the communication session, the port being capable of being dynamically configured with a different communication protocol at the end of the communication session." Claims 9-10, 12, and 14 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9-14 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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